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Funding available for veterans' programs

Humanities Montana has funding available for veterans' reading and discussion programs through this spring. Called Standing Together, these programs feature short readings chosen to inspire discussion of shared experiences.

Veterans' organizations and other community organizations that serve veterans can apply online to host a Standing Together series at www.humanitiesmontana.org/programs/standingtogether. Host organizations receive books and trained conversation leaders.

"Standing Together Montana discussions are not academic exercises and they are not therapy sessions. They are designed to let veterans talk to peers about relevant issues and ideas," says program director Kim Anderson.

Standing Together Montana is made possible through a new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War, the Great Books Foundation, and the New York Humanities Council.

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Mainstreet Uptown Butte, which is among 90 finalists for ArtPlace America's National Grants Program. ArtPlace America is a 10-year collaboration that exists to position art and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical and economic fabric of communities. ArtPlace received 1,283 letters of inquiry and will announce the next round of grant recipients in June. The proposal submitted by Mainstreet Uptown Butte is to embrace Butte's complex landscapes through the EyeLand Institute (ELI), a creative agency for artists working at the intersection of art and the environment. The project is intended to engage Butte's landscapes and communities through workshops, exhibitions and temporary public art installations. This proposal is one result of the overall creative placemaking efforts in Butte accelerated in 2014 by the establishment of the Imagine Butte Resource Center through the Butte Art Works project. That effort aims to embrace public art and encourage and support artists' residencies that focus on fortifying Butte's many assets, including the community's young creative talent.

The **Yellowstone Gateway Museum (YGM)**, which received a National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) Preservation Assistance Grant to support its ongoing work of properly storing significant archival materials held in its collections. The \$5,102 grant specifically funds the purchase of archival supplies and three fireproof cabinets; YGM is the only institution in Montana to receive funds during this grant cycle. The grant helps relocate historical materials, including photographs, documents and artwork, to storage areas in the museum that are regulated by an HVAC system, keeping temperature and humidity swings at a minimum.

TRANSITIONS



Zac Lachenbruch, Krys Holmes and Errol Koch are the new management team at the Myrna Loy Center. (Photo by Thom Bridge/courtesy of the *Helena Independent Record*)

Welcome to writer, musician and nonprofit administrator **Krys Holmes**, who was named executive director of the Myrna Loy Center in Helena starting Feb. 1. At the same time, she promoted long-time box office manager **Zachary Lachenbruch** to film curator, and tech director **Errol Koch** to live performance curator. Holmes is author of the award-winning history book *Montana: Stories of the Land* and former singer with the jazz/poetry trio Amor Fati. She was publicist for the Myrna Loy from 2000-2010, under now-retired executive director Ed Noonan, and has organized the Myrna Loy Center Grants to Artists program for the past 14 years. Since 2011 she has been administrator for the Montana Preservation Alliance, a statewide historic preservation nonprofit. "I am confident that her talents, skills, and connection to our community will provide the administrative leadership essential to moving our arts center successfully into the future," said Donna Erwin, board president. As a National Performance Network partner and a National Dance Project hub site, the 250-seat Myrna Loy Center maintains a unique presence on the national arts scene. It is known for commissioning significant works, for nurturing regional artists, and for bringing nationally renowned live performances into Helena. The Myrna also maintains a strong reputation as a film house, screening first-run and indie films every night. Holmes is already familiar with the ups and downs of keeping a high-profile arts center afloat in challenging times. She has been serving as part-time acting managing director since September, helping the Myrna Loy through a turbulent season after the center lost two important grants. But an outpouring of financial support from the Helena community helped stabilize the arts center, and the staff now looks forward to a season of creative regeneration. "We've got an insanely creative team here, a hard-working board, and an unbelievably supportive community," Holmes says. "I can't wait to see what we're going to do together."

Welcome to writer and teacher **Caroline Patterson**, who has been named the interim director of the Missoula Writing Collaborative, Missoula's only intensive writers-in-the-schools program. Patterson took the reins of the MWC in early October, placing writers in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout Missoula and in schools in surrounding communities, including Lolo, Florence, Bonner, Potomac and Ovando. She will also administer the 2014 NEA Art Works grant that will bring writer-in-the-school residencies to schools on the Flathead Reservation. Patterson has been teaching for the Missoula Writing Collaborative since 2009, and at The



Caroline Patterson with Missoula Writing Collaborative student

Fellow in Fiction at Stanford University and has received fellowships from the Henfield Foundation, the LEAW Foundation and the Vogelstein Foundation. Patterson looks forward to carrying forth the mission of the Missoula Writing Collaborative, now in its 20th year. "By writing poems with our excellent writers, children learn to express the color, sound, taste and texture of their world," says Patterson. "They learn the power of language, and then, at the end of class, they stand up in front of the room and read their work and experience the joy of creation." Visit www.missoulawritingcollaborative.org for more information.



Cori Di Biase

and life-long lover and supporter of art of all kinds." Di Biase is currently spending much of his time traveling the state and meeting the artists, musicians, students and teachers who work with VSA Montana. "I look forward to building on VSA's long history of promoting the inclusion of Montanans with disabilities in the experience and creation of art," he says. To learn more about VSA, or just say hi, drop him a line at dibiase@vsamontana.org.

Welcome to **Kat Healy**, the new special events coordinator at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. Healy was born and raised in Billings, and remembers visits to the Yellowstone Art Museum as a child. "I have been going to YAM events like Summerfair every year since I can remember," she says. "I have always had a great time and can't wait for the opportunity to plan one for the Billings community." For the last three summers, Healy has worked with Sarah Calhoun, founder of Red Ants Pants Music Festival, coordinating national and local press and PR as well as media buys for radio, print and web. While in college, she worked part-time in The University of Montana's public relations department, and helped organize major campus events. More recently, she planned an event to raise awareness for childcare programs through District 7 Human Resource Development Council. Her first order of business is organizing and planning the YAM's 47th annual Art Auction on March 7.



Kat Healy

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of renowned Flathead Valley artist **Bob Cavanaugh**. He died Jan. 18 in Whitefish at age 87. Born April 24, 1927, in the Black Hills of South Dakota, he spent his early years on ranches near the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, where his friends were the cowboys he worked with and the Sioux Indians living around him. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II, and went on to study art in Phoenix and at the Los Angeles Art Center School, majoring in advertising, illustration and design. After a stint with the Army from 1953-1956, he became a freelancer for western-themed comic books. He eventually moved to Seattle, where he worked as a commercial artist, and then as an art director with Boeing, redesigning the company's logo. He spent eight years as an editorial artist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* before moving to Kalispell in 1973. Perhaps best known as a sculptor, he was equally adept with watercolor. His subjects ranged from wildlife to cowboys to coastal and plains Indians of the American Northwest. In a story in the *Daily Inter Lake*, Kalispell artist Mark Ogle said Cavanaugh taught him how to paint watercolors. "He'd take me out every week for several years and we painted on location," Ogle recalled. "That's how I learned how to paint ..." Bigfork sculptor Gary Riecke said Cavanaugh taught him to convey emotions and impressed upon him the importance of networking with other artists, a philosophy "that filtered down from one generation to another; the idea you don't compete, you help each other," Riecke told the *Inter Lake*. "He mentored people," Ogle said. "We used to call him the 'Dean of the Western Art Movement.'"

— Excerpts from the *Daily Inter Lake*, Jan. 20